



41 West Street, Cromwell CT
06416
860-632-448

CROMWELL DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 19, 2021, 6:00 pm via ZOOM

In Attendance: Aigné Goldsby, Alice Henley, Ann Grasso, Bob McNaughton, Clare Serrantino, Heather Dillon, Jennifer Beck, Rev. Dolores Szyszko

Town Liaison: James Demetriades

Call to Order 6:05 pm

Approval of Previous Minutes

6/21 meeting - Bob motion, Clare second. Accepted unanimously

Old Business

Community Dialogues – Messaging/Recruiting Subcommittee (Aigné for Kate)

Summary of Progress - Messaging/Recruiting subcommittee met last week with Gloria who helped to finalize a 4 session guide and start thinking about messaging to reach people of all perspectives in Cromwell. There are only a couple of areas left to work on: case scenarios (see below)

Cromwell Case Scenario - need to be solidified with the larger Committee's help. Action ideas (which Gloria will be advising on). The next subcommittee meeting will be scheduled after tonight to start working on messaging in depth and pursue the recruitment process. The guide includes real Cromwell situations as examples for conversation starters. Also to be included: incidents at CHS involving student use of the confederate flag and blackface; the denial of a mosque going into the former Knights of Columbus building; growing immigrant populations in Cromwell changing community demographics; opioid abuse in Cromwell (Kate will obtain statistics from the health department); the denial of an LGBTQ+ Pride crosswalk in town; rising crime in Cromwell changing the perception of safety here. Most scenarios skew as liberal "losses" and only one is a more "right-side" talking point. The question posed to the larger Committee, *"what else would the 'other side' say about how Cromwell is changed or what is happening here recently that they would take issue with?"* We want to guide and dialogues to appeal to ALL people of ALL perspectives in order to have the most constructive conversations possible.

Ideas generated were: juvenile justice reform (car break-ins can be a connection, leaders will need resources), How are talking about it? Why are we talking about it? [Noted – Town Council decided to hold a forum on the topic in the future, could this serve as such?]

Other ideas should be sent to Aigné, Elsie, or Kate. The goal is to make sure everyone can choose to attend because they feel it is a conversation for them.

ADA Celebration/RMF WC Basketball Clinic (Aigné for Kate)

Kate has not heard back from Cromwell schools yet about the use of the gym. She will ask again upon her return to work. Subcommittee (Erin, Elsie, Alice, Carol) has not met. They will need to meet this week or next.

Discussion and decision made to use the September 25 date which allows for more time to prepare. Need to confirm place and date with RMF.

New Business**August Meeting (Aigné)**

Discussion held about options. Could hybrid be used? Not if at Town Hall. Still determining where meetings would be. Library was discussed. Ask Kate to check (or Aigné will do so). **Next Meeting date is August 16, place TBD.** Need for exploration for possible use of a conference call in number.

Decision to have the August 16 meeting and subsequent meetings be in-person. Jen motion, Heather second. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Forum/For the Good of the Organization

Follow-up to the meeting with LGBTQ group. Letters to Town Council can be sent by individual committee members. Jennifer will share hers, so we can have a 'template' to write letters. Members can send their letter/email to James or directly to Mayor.

Bob asked about the River Road Development item with Town Council. In discussion, conclusion was that this could be a topic for a Cromwell case scenario.

Motion to Adjourn 6:46 pm by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Henley